Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 002995

FOR SIMONS FROM SCHMIDT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL/INFORMAL

1. MOYNIHAN REFERRALS. WE AGREE THAT H-PASS PROCEDURE IS MOST SUITABLE FOR REPLIES TO THESE LETTERS AND H HAS NO OBJECTION TO THEIR BEING HANDLED IN THIS MANNER.

2. AMBASSADOR'S CAR. FRED MARTIN OF CHRYSLER EXPORT DIV. TOLD INTS THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S VOLARE WAS COMPLETED BY THE FACTORY ON JANUARY 3 AND WAS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT THE US PORT (PRESUMABLY BALTIMORE) IN TEN DAYS. MARTIN SAID HE COULD GIVE NO ESTIMATE OF TRANSIT TIME.

3. DIVIDED FAMILY REPORTS. OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS FOR THE MASSIVE REVIEW OF FILES REFLECTED IN YOUR DECEMBER CSCE DIVIDED FAMILY REPORT. THE CHANGE IN STATISTICS IS DRAMATIC. BECAUSE THE DROP IN PENDING CASES IS SO STEEP,
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HOWEVER, WE CAN EXPECT SOME SHARP AND SKEPTICAL QUESTIONING ON THE REASON FOR THE CHANGE. WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE A FULLER ACCOUNT OF HOW OVER 600 CASES WERE DROPPED. WERE MOST OF THEM RESOLVED IN SOME WAY OTHER THAN ISSUANCE OF AN IMMIGRANT VISA OR ARE THEY STILL PENDING BUT NO LONGER INCLUDED IN THE TOTALS BECAUSE DIFFERENT CRITERIA ARE NOW BEING APPLIED? IN THAT CONNECTION, PLEASE SPELL

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OUT FOR US IN DETAIL THE CRITERIA BEING USED FOR INCLUDING CASES IN THE DIVIDED FAMILIES REPORT. ARE THE SAME CRITERIA USED FOR INCLUSION IN THE REPRESENTATION LIST? FORGIVE US FOR BEARING DOWN SO HARD ON THIS, BUT IT WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE GOOD ANSWERS TO SUCH QUESTIONS, SINCE IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED IN THE CONGRESS AND ELSEWHERE THAT THERE ARE MANY HUNDREDS OF PENDING ROMANIAN EMIGRATION CASES.

4. ISLAND CREEK. ON JANUARY 2 EDU CALLED NICK TO INFORM HIM THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM MFT TO THE EFFECT THAT A ROMANIAN SHIP NEEDED TO ENTER HAMPTON ROADS TO PICK UP COAL. EDU CLAIMED TO BE UNAWARE OF NAME OF SHIP OR WHEN IT WOULD ARRIVE. NICK MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE COULD NOT GIVE CLEARANCE FOR ROMANIAN SHIP TO ENTER HAMPTON ROADS AND THAT BOTH GOR AND US COAL COMPANIES HAD BEEN SO INFORMED IN PAST. FURTHERMORE, JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS, FODOR HAD SPOKEN WITH JAY BURGESS ABOUT THE PORT ACCESS QUESTION AND, WHILE ADMITTING HE WAS AWARE OF THE RESTRICTION ON HAMPTON ROADS, ASKED FOR THE RELEVANT CITATIONS FROM OUR LAWS. (JAY HAS NOT YET RESPONDED.) ALL THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE ROMANIANS MAY BE PLAYING GAMES AGAIN ON THIS ISSUE, AND YOU SHOULD BE ALERT TO IT ARISING IN BUCHAREST. AS YOU ARE AWARE, WE EXPLORED ALL THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A ROMANIAN EXCEPTION BEFORE CONCLUDING
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THAT THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR A CHANGE IN THIS POLICY. THERE REMAINS, HOWEVER, THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO RESPOND TO THE TYPE OF INQUIRY THAT FODOR MADE TO BURGESS, SINCE THERE ARE NO OFFICIALLY CLOSED PORTS. WE WOULD SUGGEST -- IN RESPONSE TO ANY SUCH QUERY IN BUCHAREST -- THE FOLLOWING SORT OF REPLY. "THE MAGNUSON ACT OF 1950 PROVIDES THE COAST GUARD WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING PORT SECURITY. AS A MATTER OF PRACTICE, AND BASED ON SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, REQUESTS BY ANY WARSAW PACT SHIP TO ENTER HAMPTON ROADS WILL BE DENIED, AND THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF ANY EXCEPTION FOR ROMANIA". CHRISTOPHER

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